

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A padlock protector for a padlock having a body and shackle including a connecting member joining laterally spaced apart first and second legs, the padlock protector comprising:
  - a shield overlying substantially all of said shackle for preventing tampering access thereto[[;]], said shield including an upper end, a left end, a right end and a skirt circumscribing said left end, upper end and right end for surrounding at least said shackle while permitting access to a bottom end of said body;
    - a first arm extending from a rear face of said shield, said first arm including a first opening to accept said first leg therethrough;
    - a second arm extending from said rear face, said second arm including a second opening to accept said second leg therethrough, said second opening laterally spaced apart from said first opening so that said first opening aligns with said first leg and said second opening aligns with said second leg, said first and second openings limit movement of said shield in a horizontal plane, and wherein said first and second openings are vertically spaced apart to limit vertical movement of said shield;
      - whereby threading said first leg through said first opening and said second leg through said second opening and locking said shackle secures said shield to said padlock.
2. (Original) The padlock protector of claim 1 wherein said shield, said first arm, and said second arm are integrally formed.
3. (Original) The padlock protector of claim 1 wherein said shield, said first arm, and said second arm are formed of a hardened metal alloy.

4. (Original) The padlock protector of claim 1 wherein said first arm and said second arm are right angle brackets securely attached to said rear face.
  5. (Original) The padlock protector of claim 1 wherein said first and second openings are vertically spaced apart so that when said first leg is passed through said first opening and said second leg is passed through said second opening said first opening is located at an upper end of said first leg and said second opening is located at a lower end of said second leg.
  6. (Previously presented) The padlock protector of claim 1 wherein said shield overlies said shackle by an amount significantly beyond a dimensional extent of said shackle and overlies a portion of said body.
  7. (Original) The padlock protector of claim 6 wherein said shield is shaped to resemble a badge.
- 8-12. (Canceled)
13. (Original) The lock protector of claim 1 wherein said shield including a front face, said front face having indicia.
  14. (Currently amended) A lock protector for a padlock including a body and a shackle defined by a first leg, a second leg and an arm joining said first and second leg, said lock protector comprising:

a face plate shielding substantially all of said shackle for preventing tampering access thereto[;], said face plate includes an upper edge, a left edge, a right edge and a skirt encircling said left edge, upper edge and right edge for surrounding at least said shackle while permitting access to a bottom portion of said padlock; and

a member extending from a rear surface of said face plate, said member having a first opening and a second opening, said first and second openings spaced apart in a horizontal direction and a vertical direction, said first opening positioned to engage said first leg and

said second opening positioned to engage said second leg of said shackle to retain said face plate to said padlock when said shackle is in a locked state.

15. (Original) The lock protector of claim 14 wherein said face plate and said member are integrally formed of a hardened metal alloy.

16. (Original) The lock protector of claim 15 wherein one of said two openings is an elongated opening.

17. (Previously presented) The lock protector of claim 14 wherein said face plate shields said shackle by an amount significantly beyond a dimensional extent of said shackle and shields a portion of said body.

18. (Original) The lock protector of claim 17 wherein said face plate is shaped to resemble a badge.

19-22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) The lock protector of claim 14 wherein said first and second openings are vertically spaced apart so that when said first leg is passed through said first opening and said second leg is passed through said second opening said first opening is located at an upper end of said first leg and said second opening is located at a lower end of said second leg.

24. (Canceled).

25. (Currently Amended) A lock protector for a padlock having a body and a shackle including first and second legs, said lock protector comprising:

a face plate covering substantially all of said shackle for preventing tampering access thereto, said face plate having a rear surface[[;]], an upper edge, a left edge, a right edge and a skirt encircling said left edge, upper edge and right edge for surrounding at least said shackle while permitting access to a bottom surface of said padlock;

a first arm extending from said rear surface, said first arm having a first opening for attaching said first arm to said shackle;

a second arm extending from said rear surface, said second arm having a second opening for attaching said second arm to said shackle, said first and second openings are horizontally spaced apart so that said first opening engages said first leg and said second opening engages said second leg of said shackle for securing said face plate to said padlock, and wherein said first and second openings are vertically spaced apart; whereby passing said first leg through said first opening and said second leg through said second opening and locking said shackle to said body secures said face plate to said padlock, said vertically spaced apart openings limiting vertical movement of said face plate.

26. (Original) The lock protector of claim 25 wherein said face plate, first arm and said second arm are formed of a hardened metal alloy.

27. (Original) The lock protector of claim 25 wherein said first arm and said second arm are right angle brackets attached to said rear surface.

28. (Original) The lock protector of claim 25 wherein said face plate, said first arm and said second arm are integrally formed.

29. (Original) The lock protector of claim 25 wherein one of said first and second openings is elongated.

30. (Previously presented) The lock protector of claim 25 wherein said face plate covers said shackle by an amount significantly beyond a dimensional extent of said shackle and covers a portion of said body.

31. (Original) The lock protector of claim 30 wherein said face plate is shaped to resemble a badge.

32-35. (Canceled)

36. (Original) The lock protector of claim 25 wherein said first and second openings are vertically spaced apart so that when said first leg is passed through said first opening and said

second leg is passed through said second opening said first opening is located at an upper end of said first leg and said second opening is located at a lower end of said second leg.

37. (Currently amended) A method of protecting a padlock having a body and a shackle including first and second legs, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a lock protector comprising:

a face plate overlying substantially all of said shackle for preventing tampering access thereto, said face plate having a rear surface[[;]], an upper edge, a left edge, a right edge and a skirt encircling said left edge, upper edge and right edge for surrounding at least said shackle while permitting access to a bottom surface of said padlock;

a first arm extending from said rear surface, said first arm having a first opening for attaching said first arm to said shackle;

a second arm extending from said rear surface, said second arm having a second opening for attaching said second arm to said shackle, said first and second openings are horizontally spaced apart so that said first opening engages said first leg and said second opening engages said second leg of said shackle for securing said face plate to said padlock, and wherein said first and second openings are vertically spaced apart;

(b) threading said shackle through said first and second openings so that said first leg is contained within said first opening and said second leg is contained within said second opening; and

(c) locking said shackle to said body.

38-39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously presented) The lock protector of claim 1 wherein said shield completely overlies said shackle for preventing tampering access thereto.

41. (Previously presented) The lock protector of claim 14 wherein said face plate completely shields said shackle for preventing tampering access thereto.

42. (Currently amended) The lock protector of claim 25 wherein said ~~aae~~ face plate completely covers said shackle for preventing tampering access thereto.

43. (New) A padlock protector for a padlock having a body and shackle including a connecting member joining laterally spaced apart first and second legs, the padlock protector comprising:

a shield overlying substantially all of said shackle for preventing tampering access thereto; said shield having an upper end and a lower end, said lower end of said shield being offset so that said upper end defines a first plane and said lower end defines a second plane, said first plane substantially parallel to said second plane;

a first arm extending from a rear face of said shield, said first arm including a first opening to accept said first leg therethrough;

a second arm extending from said rear face, said second arm including a second opening to accept said second leg therethrough, said second opening laterally spaced apart from said first opening so that said first opening aligns with said first leg and said second opening aligns with said second leg, said first and second openings limit movement of said shield in a horizontal plane, and wherein said first and second openings are vertically spaced apart to limit vertical movement of said shield;

whereby threading said first leg through said first opening and said second leg through said second opening and locking said shackle secures said shield to said padlock.

44. (New) The lock protector of claim 43 wherein said lower end has an aperture for accessing said body.

45. (New) The lock protector of claim 44 wherein said aperture is a semicircular cutout for accessing a dial of a combination lock.

46. (New) The lock protector of claim 43 wherein said lower end is offset toward the padlock.

47. (New) A lock protector for a padlock including a body and a shackle defined by a first leg, a second leg and an arm joining said first and second leg, said lock protector comprising:

a face plate shielding substantially all of said shackle for preventing tampering access thereto, said face plate having an upper end and a lower end, said lower end of said face plate being offset so that said upper end defines a first plane and said lower end defines a second plane, said first plane substantially parallel to said second plane; and

a member extending from a rear surface of said face plate, said member having a first opening and a second opening, said first and second openings spaced apart in a horizontal direction and a vertical direction, said first opening positioned to engage said first leg and said second opening positioned to engage said second leg of said shackle to retain said face plate to said padlock when said shackle is in a locked state.

48. (New) The lock protector of claim 47 wherein said lower end has an aperture for accessing said body.

49. (New) The lock protector of claim 48 wherein said aperture is a semicircular cutout for accessing a dial of a combination lock.

50. (New) The lock protector of claim 47 wherein said lower end is offset toward the padlock.

51. (New) A lock protector for a padlock having a body and a shackle including first and second legs, said lock protector comprising:

a face plate covering substantially all of said shackle for preventing tampering access thereto, said face plate having a rear surface and an upper end and a lower end, said lower end of said face plate being offset so that said upper end defines a first plane and said lower end defines a second plane, said first plane substantially parallel to said second plane;

a first arm extending from said rear surface, said first arm having a first opening for attaching said first arm to said shackle;

a second arm extending from said rear surface, said second arm having a second opening for attaching said second arm to said shackle, said first and second openings are horizontally spaced apart so that said first opening engages said first leg and said second opening engages said second leg of said shackle for securing said face plate to said padlock, and wherein said first and second openings are vertically spaced apart; whereby passing said first leg through said first opening and said second leg through said second opening and locking said shackle to said body secures said face plate to said padlock, said vertically spaced apart openings limiting vertical movement of said face plate.

52. (New) The lock protector of claim 51 wherein said lower end has an aperture for accessing said body.

53. (New) The lock protector of claim 52 wherein said aperture is a semicircular cutout for accessing a dial of a combination lock.